"KIT INSPECTION"

BEING THE
SECOND EPISTLE OF

CHARTERIOUS

WRITTEN BY HIM OF "THE DUMBELLS"

TED CHARTER

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LET US FIRST OF ALL HYMN A LITTLE

HYMN NO. 1916. "SEPTEMBUS."

When this great war is over
And we are home again,
No matter when we meet—or where,
We can all sing this refrain.

Do you remember Ypres,
With its poor old battered square,
And the times we had, we did by Dad
As we marched along through there.

Do you remember Zellibecke?
Where Fritz did all he could,
And the times we had—we did by Gad,
In poor old Sanctuary Wood.

You remember Maple Copse
And the sound we both recall,
The whine of shell, Yes, the snipers as well,
And the remains of China-wall.

You remember Poziers,
The place we'll never forget,
When Canadians stood—as Canadians would
—In front of Courcelette.

CHARTER.

NOW LET US TALK ONE TO ANOTHER

"KIT INSPECTION"

Being the Second Epistle of

CHARTERIOUS

to the

CIVILIANITES

CHAPTER I.

1. Charterious writeth again, unto his brethren, and speaketh of the warage conserning the tribes of Canadia. 4. The enemy assembleth in great numbers, speaketh of shrapnel-us. 8. Men of Canada take heed of the warning, they liveth in the abodes of ruins. 10. The Chieftains rebuke them. Do murmur among themselves. 15. The scribe wore khaki likewise. As they.

I, Charterious, the Scribe, who wrote unto you, conserning the "BATTLE of SOMME AREA," writeth again unto you brethren of the days of great strife, and the days of quarrel.

2. ¶And speak also to you, who, I know full well, were of those days, when we all were sorely troubled. But, to-day, may ye be cheereoed, as even I am cheereoed, though, only partly so.

3. ¶And it came to pass during the warage, that the TRIBES of CANADIA, journeyed into battle, as was their custom.

4. For their LEADERS had again heard of the message of trouble, which was brought unto them, saying, hasten, yea, make much haste.

5. Gather together, your fighting men, and your hourses, and your waggons, and all your personel, and make ready, prepare ye, to fall upon they of PRUSSIA even the HUNITES, fall ye upon them.

6. For again, great hoardes of them are hurrying toward us, threatening, and crying aloud vengeful sayings, against us, *The Canadianites.*

7. ¶Tarry ye not, no, not so much as be sufficient to give men promised leave. Promise them that ONCE again. But, BE IT NOT NOW thou givest it.

8. Hasten ye away, and with all speed hasten, and take with you "MILLSBOMB-US," and take ye "WIRE-CUTTUS," send mighty "SHRAPNELUS."

9. ¶Take ye also, HARD TACK BISKI-TUS, take ye BULLY-BEEFUS, of the flesh of OXON, and even RUM-US, the most powerful, shall ye also take. Thus ye shall go against them and smite them.

10. And all the TRIBES of CANADIA heard this, and did take heed of these saying, and they beat their drums, and sounded their cymbals and played upon their instruments, and went forth.

11. After which, when dawning was, the battle ceased, and from them who had been their enemies, they took the scalp coverings of many, and of helmits had they a plenty.

12. On the morrow, they returned, and went unto their own AREA, and found the doors of barns, and of out houses were open unto them, also, and in the places of RUINS, and of debris did they return, being their own abodes.

13. ¶And while SPRAWLING thereabout, they who scroungeth much, at such times, as is needful for them, Behold their CHIEFTAINS, came unto them, and seeing their doing but naught, became angry, and spake wrathfully unto them, saying:

14. ¶WHY IDLE-ETH YE HERE THUSLY?

15. Know ye not, that we your leaders, who ride on horses, knoweth what is best, for you who walk? And they, their leaders, rebuked them, saying, listen ye, and again, listen.

16. Let there be, not a man, entereth the house of Y.M.C.Aus. . . . Keep ye, everyone away from CROWN ANCHORUS. Leave alone each man his vessel of VIM-BLONC-US. . . . For all they who here are that laboreth not, these things shall be without of bounds hereof.

17. This shall they surely do, prepare ye, all who heareth prepare ye for "KIT INSPECTION."

18. For, that which ye have not, shall be given you, and for that which thou still have, shalt thou be much scorned, if it be, of condition, filthy.

19. Bring, every man, all those things of which he is possessed, even the MASK which preventeth the head part, from that which is called GAS, bring ye them.

20. ¶And the men of CANADIA murmured among themselves, as was their custom, and SAID MANY THINGS, about their chiefs, but their chiefs heard them not, having departed hense.

21. Yet said they MANY THINGS about them, which BABES understand not, nor should womenfolk hear, yet, say I unto you, bretheren, they uttered words of which neither gramophone records speak, nor shall I write, but I say unto you THEY WHO MURMURED AT THAT TIME—DID UTTER UNDICTIONED WORDS.

22. And though they spake in such an way, as perchance thou may wot of, yet they did as was bid them, they do.

23. Albeit hated they the doing of many things yet the hour of KIT INSPECTION did they hate, most exceedingly, and was as an abomination unto all of them.

24. Whist not, all ye who, of those days which these writings speak, know, that they who wore raiment of PLAIN KHAKI had "need" of great fear?

25. FEARED they not the wearer of CROWNS? FEARED they not the wearer of STARS? FEARED they not the wearer of STRIPES? Be they the mere number of one? or the number two, or be the stripes of three fold?

26. Yea, these fighting men of Canadia knew THE WORD HAD BEEN SPOKEN.

27. And woe be it, unto him, who obeyeth not, THAT WORD, which leaveth the mouth of their chiefs.

28. And it was so, for I, CHARTERIOUS, THE SCRIBE, KNOWETH OF WHAT I SPEAK, FOR WAS I NOT, WITH YOU, IN THOSE DAYS, YEA IN THOSE DAYS COVERED I MY BODY WITH THE CLOTH OF PLAIN KHAKI, LIKEWISE, AS DID YOU.

CHAPTER II.

1. Charterius warneth his brothers still more. 3. The clarion calleth them. The chief would speak to them. Adorned with three golden stars. 9. Ar-s-em summoneth the men. 12. He questioneth the first man.

AGAIN, I warn you, of this thing—read, and see what this meaneth to you, as also it meant to us of the days that were:

2. AT ALL TIMES BE YE PREPARED FOR NO MAN KNOWETH WHEN INSPECTION COMETH.

3. And there came one who stood erect and sounded a clarion, that all men could hear. . . . Then he that sounded the clarion departed and went his way.

4. And they that were gathered thereabout said, 'List, the clarion calleth us.'

5. 'Let us go thither, and assemble, for he who is Chief among us would speak to us.' . . . And they went and assembled.

6. And behold there came towards them one adorned with THREE GOLDEN STARS who,—swaggereth much before men.

7. And when they saw him coming—they stood each man, as though carved of marble.

8. Then 'he' of the three stars spoke unto AR-S-EM, saying 'AR-S-EM, bring before me, at the ninth hour, one hundred and forty men, bearing upon themselves their burdens, and all their possessions.

9. And have them spread them before me, that I may see which one among them falleth short—of—that—which—he—should have.

10. Then AR-S-EM saluteth him of the three stars, saying, 'Yea, sire, even as thou hast said, so shall it be.'

11. And at the ninth hour there came one hundred and forty men, bearing upon themselves their burdens, and all their possessions,—and they spread them upon the ground, and arranged them, like Vendors, arrange merchantdice.

12. And 'he' of the three stars came nigh unto them. . . . And to the first man he said, 'THOU hast done well—for ALL that was given thee thou hast yet.'

13. HOW BE IT SO that thou preservest so well, the things that were given thee?

14. And he that was spoken to said, 'Sir —I am but newly—in—the—land, having come thither from Angelterria but a few days hence—

15. 'And am strange to the ways hereof.'

CHAPTER III.

1. He questioneth them with six blankets. Are sorely troubled. 5. Explaineth the reason, Fermented Juice. 8. A passerby uses compassion. 9. The scribe bids his bretheren farewell. He writeth later.

THEN he spoke unto all of them, saying, 'Which one among you having six blankets—and when inspection cometh, would not straightway hide the five and show the one?

2. 'Or which is the better man—he that doeth twice as much as he is asked—or he that only doeth just as much as he is asked?' And when they heard this they were astonished, and said—

3. "He that doeth JUST as much as he is asked—he is the better man, for he lasteth TWICE AS LONGETH."

4. Then 'he' came unto another man and said unto him, 'I see most things thou shouldst have,—but where is the girdle that should surround thy waist? For he that is without a girdle when inspection cometh offendeth grievously.'

5. And he that was spoken to looked sorely troubled, and answered—

6. 'Sir, only yesternight I loaned it to another who went out visiting friends, and his friends took him unto an inn, and they gave him to drink the fermented juice of luscious grapes.

7. 'And he drank of the juice—and fell by the wayside—and lay there as though slain.

8. 'And behold a passer-by—wearing an armlet, bearing on it letters of red—named MILITARIUS POLICEUS—saw him, and took compassion on him,—

9. 'And lifted him up—and took him unto his house, even the house of detention.'

10. I write to you from they, the merry, a people who travelleth much, yea THE DUMBELL'S am I again with.

11. From ANGELTERRIA, am I returned, and among my former bretheren am I even rejoicing.

12. And when sobeit, I see you again, so shall ye all see them also for we are DUMBELLING among great multitudes, but we will visit you yet some more.

13. I write you in but a little while of VIMY, of VIMYOLOGY, also write I unto you.

Though my cruise containeth but VINTAGE, which is WEAK, THOU ALL UNDERSTANDETH MY GOOD WISHES, AS THOUGH IT WERE OF THE STRENGTH OF RUM-US.

LET US HYMN AGAIN—

HYMN—VIMY.

No. 1917. TUNE: APRIL, &c. CAN.

1. When the day is over,
   Night is drawing nigh,
Shooting flares or something
   Illumine the sky.

2. When this strange thing happens
   No place to hide or go;
No matter what your doing,
   Bend your bodies low.

3. Though the night's a wet one,
   Take no heed of that;
Drop whatever you may have
   And lay down flat.

UNTO HIM THAT MESSTINETH MUCH LETITBESAID

THAT, though the Messtin looketh like the metal of silver, yea, and soundeth as the tinkling of such, yet, within the passing of an hour, of that day that it be issueth from the hand of the fair one, who assisteth in the store place of "him" who is called, though in reverse manner, "MASTER QUARTER," into the possession of one newly come among the multitudes, let it be told him this—, that its hour of cleanliness is finished, for let it but make of trips, a few, even to the door of him that cooketh for men, smelly things, or of savory things, or of unsavory things, or of whatsoever he cooketh for men, Let it go there but twice, and come thither but twice. Let it travel Estaminetwise, but twice times, and return but twice times, yea, I tell thee this, that unless it straightway also visiteth the HOUSE of ABLUTION even once, it shall surely become SAD to look upon. Its brightness disappeareth,—it soundeth not like the tincling of silver, but rather like that of the metal of lead, that is without sound. It appeareth liken unto the surface side of the clothing of Army cooks, blackened—, and liken unto the knees of the pants worn by those who

shooteth the CUBES OF DICE, dirty of mud. Liken unto the rifle that TRENCHETH much, unoiled, and rusteth, yea the very messtin that was new, only as yesternight, is, as a sorry sight, and resembleth a much used DIXIE of great age. Thus let it be to HIM THAT MESSTINETH MUCH.

—A'HEM!

CANTEEN TALK

IS he a soldier?
Who never missed parade;
Never had a dirty button . . .
Always was afraid!

IS he a soldier?
Who always answered "Fall";
Never missed a drill or march—
Never got a "call!"

IS he a soldier?
Who up from bed he got,
When . . . revellie sounded
Well . . . I'll say
He's not!

—Again A'HEM!

HE that possesseth a "pass," upon which is marked the hour that he shall return, and returneth not at that hour—is indeed most foolish. . . .

BUT he that knoweth the PICKETS real well, even to Estaminise with them. He is wise from the very beginning.

CHARTERIUS adviseth his bretheren, of yet another such one, as is herein printed.

AND all men thereabout were of one accord, and complaineth much that their resting places were of the hole in the ground. . . . While horses did . . well.

AND one, who spake wiser than the rest, said, know ye not, that horses cost our governors money? . . . While mere men can be had for naught but the asking.

FOR it is written in the Book of the "Battle of Somme-Area," that these things are so.

SHOULD'ST thou seekest for thyself, the possession of this Epistle and of the "Battle of Somme-Area," I tell thee this, that many may be had, for so many pieces of silver. But one may be had for the fourth part of one dollar, and for the postage thereof cents ten, be sufficient, and procureth it. Tell thy newsdealer and he will do the rest.